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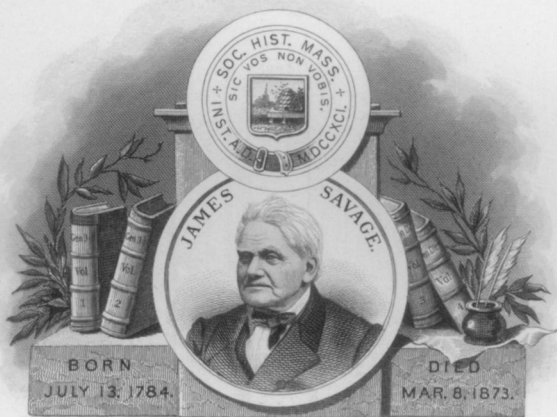
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*From the Fund
Bequeathed to the
Massachusetts Historical Society
BY
James Savage.*

Received _____

OCTOBER MEETING.

A stated meeting was held on Thursday, the 14th of October, at eleven o'clock, A.M. ; the President, the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, — present for the first time since his return from Europe, — in the chair.

The records of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

The list of donors to the Library since the last meeting was read.

The Librarian called attention to the Savage Book plate recently prepared to go into the volumes bought from the Savage Fund, with an excellent miniature likeness of Mr. Savage represented upon it.

The President then spoke as follows : —

It gives me, gentlemen, more pleasure than I know how to express, to find myself once more in the Dowse Library, with so many, around and before me, of those whom I have been long accustomed to meet here. I went abroad with reluctance ; I stayed abroad with greater reluctance ; and I eagerly returned home as soon as the condition of others, whose health and welfare I was bound to consult before any wishes of my own, allowed me to return. I had many “compunctious visitings” about permitting my relation to this Society, as its President, to continue during so considerable an absence ; and there are those present who would bear witness, I am sure, if any witness were needed, how more than willing I was to make way for others better entitled to such a distinction. But, by the blessing of God, here I am ; and, by your favor, I resume the chair which I have occupied for so many years ; and I can only assure you that I have returned with a deep sense of obligation to make up, as far as I can, for lost time, and to spare no efforts for promoting the continued prosperity and welfare of a Society, which has been so indulgent alike to my short comings and to my long stayings.

My first impulse this morning, gentlemen, is to offer, as I here do, my grateful acknowledgments to Mr. Adams, who has so kindly and punctually supplied, and more than supplied, my place ; and to whom the thanks of the Society will, I doubt not, be offered, as they should be, in a formal vote. Let me myself propose, without further delay or preamble, that the thanks of this Society be presented to our first Vice-

President, the Hon. Charles Francis Adams, for his faithful and obliging discharge of the duties of the chair during the absence of the President for nearly eighteen months past.

I am really appalled, gentlemen, as I frame the resolution, at the length of absence of which I am compelled to make confession. But I will at least couple the confession with the promise never to do the like again.

[The President then put the resolution to vote, and it was unanimously adopted.]

And next, gentlemen, let me thank you all most heartily for the "welcome home" which I cannot fail to read, in the unwontedly large attendance which greets my return to the chair to-day. I can never be insensible to such a manifestation of regard, and I am only sorry to be so inadequately prepared to meet the expectation which such a gathering may seem to imply.

But, alas! I miss from your number not a few of those whom I have been accustomed to meet on such occasions; not a few of those whom I might have counted on taking by the hand, once more, to-day. I had, indeed, been gone from you but a few months, before I heard of the death of my good friend, Judge Warren, who once told us, at a Special Meeting at his own house, on one of the anniversaries of the Pilgrims' Landing, that he had in his own veins the blood of at least five of the passengers in the "Mayflower," and the solace of whose declining age was to spend it within sight of Plymouth Rock. The death of Judge Warren was soon followed by that of the excellent Jeffries Wyman, to whom I had been bound, for seven or eight years past, by peculiar ties of association and of affection, and whose name I cannot mention without a fresh and deep sense of the loss to science, to the University, and to us all, which his early and lamented departure has involved. Then came successively the deaths of the eminent jurist, Judge Curtis; of the zealous antiquary, Dr. Shurtleff; of the venerated pastor, president, moralist, Dr. Walker; and of the veteran Boston banker-poet, Charles Sprague.

Our "last enemy," as he is persistently called, — though he so often comes to the suffering and the infirm as their best friend, — could hardly have found, in our own ranks, or in those of any other association, six men of more striking characters, of more distinguished careers, of more varied and attractive gifts, to be grouped together as the shining marks of his unerring shafts, during a single year.

To all these deceased associates and friends, however, I

have already paid some humble tribute in letters to our invaluable Secretary, Mr. Deane, which have received more attention than they deserved.

But still other breaches had been made in our little band of one hundred before my return. While on the eve of embarking, I heard, with great regret, of the deaths of the Hon. Charles Wentworth Upham, whom I have always remembered affectionately as the oldest boy of good Deacon Greele's school, when I was the youngest; and of Prof. Joel Parker, whose sturdy and vigorous old age had given promise of many more years of usefulness and honor. Both of them had done excellent work for history and for our own Society; but I am conscious that I can say nothing of either of them which has not been better said, and very recently said, by others.

Meantime, I cannot forget that our Honorary and Corresponding roll has been robbed in its turn of the names of Almack and Twisleton; of Cyrus Eaton and John Carter Brown; of D'Avezac, whom I visited twice in Paris while he was rapidly approaching his end; and of Guizot, whom I had the privilege of knowing personally in former years, but whom I was now too late to see again.

I may be pardoned for mentioning, in passing, that I was fortunate enough to be in Paris during the sale of Guizot's library, and to obtain a valuable volume from it, with an autograph note on the fly-leaf. And though I am not much of a collector of autographs, I could not resist the temptation of securing half a dozen of his collection, which will serve to illustrate the characters and careers in which he had taken special interest. They included Bossuet and Mirabeau, two men of the most widely contrasted lives and periods, but in their several spheres, perhaps, the most brilliant orators France has ever produced. They included William of Orange, whose name speaks, and will ever speak, for itself. They included Wilberforce, the great English philanthropist; and Chalmers, the grand Scotch thinker and preacher. And they included Walter Scott.

But I cannot pass from the losses which our Honorary roll has sustained without alluding to the latest, and to us the most memorable of all.

The venerable Horace Binney, of Philadelphia, had already passed safely through the first half of his ninety-sixth year, with his eyes hardly dimmed, his natural strength scarcely abated, and his intellectual faculties all unclouded; and we had fondly hoped that he might have been held back still longer from the skies, not only to witness the completion of

his country's century, and to be the most interesting and illustrious living figure in the great celebration in his own city next year, but to complete his own century of life, not long afterwards, and to impersonate for us, as indeed he so long had done, that grand description of the old prophet, "the ancient and the honorable man, the prudent, the counsellor, and the eloquent orator."

But this hope of us all was not to be fulfilled. I had just been reading a letter from him, a copy of which had been kindly enclosed to me by Mr. Grigsby, to whom it was addressed as late as the 7th of July last, in which he alluded to the prospect of attaining to "the higher life," when a telegram in a London paper, which had outrun the mail, apprised me that the *higher life* was indeed already his.

I have always counted it among my special privileges to have heard Horace Binney in the greatest effort of his life, — his magnificent argument before the Supreme Court at Washington, in the Girard College Case, — when, though so much of my sympathy was with his illustrious antagonist, Mr. Webster, and with the peculiar views of which Mr. Webster was the advocate, I received such an impression of the power, the research, and the eloquence of Mr. Binney, and of the weight of character, like that of our own old Samuel Hoar, which he threw into the case, that I have always regarded that effort as among the very grandest forensic displays and triumphs which the courts of law in our own land, or in any other land, have ever witnessed.

I paid Mr. Binney a visit, only a few years ago, in his own office at Philadelphia, built for him, as he told me, more than sixty years before; and certainly a more interesting and beautiful exhibition of a serene, philosophic, and Christian old age could have been seen nowhere else.

But my friend and his friend, Mr. Grigsby, has furnished us with a full account of his career and of its close; and I forbear from adding further to tributes which have been abundantly paid.

The President then said that he would turn for a few moments from the dead to the living, and mention a few of our Honorary and Corresponding Members in foreign lands, whom it had been his good fortune to meet, and from whom he had received many kind attentions. He then proceeded to speak, in some detail, of the distinguished historian, Earl Stanhope, whose name was now the only one left on our roll of those elected from Old England, prior to the amendment of our

charter in 1857; of Mignet, the eminent and eloquent Academician, whose name is at the head of our later roll, and who has just published two new historical volumes on "The Rivalry between Francis I. and Charles V."; of Count Adolphe de Circourt, who is engaged in publishing a work on the Alliance between France and the United States in 1778; of Thiers, the great writer, orator, and statesman; of Dean Stanley and Lord Arthur Hervey; of John Forster and Edward A. Freeman; and lastly, of our American Minister at Rome, George P. Marsh, who had intrusted him with a photographic copy of a rare and perhaps unique old print of our revolutionary period, as a contribution to our Cabinet. The print purported to have been designed, "after nature," in Boston, and to have been engraved in Philadelphia, and Mr. Marsh gave the following account of its strange discovery:—

ROME, May 31, 1875.

DEAR MR. WINTHROP, — The engraving emblematical of the relief of Philadelphia, by the "Ange de la France," was found by Colonel H. Yule, the editor of the new edition of Marco Polo, bound into a folio, entitled: *Wahrhaftige ausführliche Beschreibung der Berühmten Ost-Indischen Küsten Malabar und Coromandel durch Philippum Baldaun weiland Diener des Göttlich. Worts ans Zeylon. Amsterdam, 1672.*

It was bound into the middle of the section: *Abgötterey der Ost-Indischen Heyden*, by some old person, who probably took the dancing party for *heathen*, performing some licentious rite.

I presume the *dessiné d'après nature* refers rather to the landscape than to the saltatory group, though I do not know but the *vertueux Insurgens* may have sometimes indulged in such frisky expressions of exultation. I suppose the design is good authority for the form of the *Bonnet de la Liberté* used at that period; but how is it with the flag? And is the town in the back-ground Philadelphia, as it was in 1778? If the design was made at Boston, probably the artist found the *nature* after which he drew nearer at hand. Is there any thing in it that suggests Boston as the original?

Very truly yours,

GEO. P. MARSH.

HON. R. C. WINTHROP.

The President then laid on the table, as gifts to the Society, two volumes of the Reports of the Architectural Societies of Great Britain, from the venerable Archdeacon Trollope; two volumes of the Catalogue of Guizot's Library; and a beautiful photographic portrait of M. Mignet, with his autograph signature.

The President proceeded, in conclusion, to speak of "The Congress of Americanists," as it was called, held at Nancy, in France, in July last, to which the Society had appointed him a delegate, and regretted that it had proved to be out of his power to attend it. He had the best reason for thinking that it had been a very interesting and successful occasion, and hoped soon to present to the Library the printed volume of its proceedings.

Baron Franz von Holtzendorff, of Munich, was elected an Honorary Member, and Mr. Henry C. Lea, of Philadelphia, a Corresponding Member.

A communication from Mr. Rufus Blanchard, of Chicago, relative to some copies of old maps enclosed for the Society, was referred to the Recording Secretary and the Librarian; and one relating to a memorial of Thomas Knowlton, a distinguished officer from Connecticut, at Bunker Hill, was referred to Mr. Frothingham.

Mr. SALTONSTALL now addressed the meeting in reference to the duty which devolved upon the Society to render its aid in some way for the approaching Centennial Celebration at Philadelphia. He had been appointed a Commissioner for Massachusetts, and he solicited the advice and assistance of the Society. On his motion a committee was appointed, consisting of the Treasurer, the Librarian, and the Cabinet-keeper, to consider the subject presented by Mr. Saltonstall, and to report at the next meeting.

NOVEMBER MEETING, 1875

A stated meeting was held on Thursday, the 11th instant, at eleven o'clock A.M.; the President in the chair.

The Secretary read the record of the last meeting, which was approved.

The Librarian read his list of donors to the Library the past month.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter of acceptance from George William Curtis, of Staten Island, N. Y.

Mr. William P. Upham, of Salem, was elected a Resident